

# COUNCIL ACTIONS

by N. Susan Stone, Secretary, Houston, TX

**T**he Council of the ABA Section of Taxation met on August 10, 2002, for the Annual Meeting of the Section at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C. The Council heard reports and took actions on the following items.

## ELECTION TO FILL VACANT COUNCIL SEAT

Herb Beller, Chair of the Section, reported that Greg Jenner, a member of Council whose term was to expire in July 2003, had resigned from Council in order to become the new Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy of the Treasury Department. Under Section 4.7 of the By-laws of the Section, the remaining members of Council are permitted to select a replacement for any vacant Council seat. Council considered a list of potential candidates to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Jenner's departure. After discussion, Mark Yecies was elected by written ballot to serve on Council for the unexpired portion of the term ending July 2003.

## SECTION LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

Herb Beller announced the following appointments: Charlie Egerton as Division Coordinator for the Service's Small Business/Self-Employed Division, Bob McKenzie as Division Coordinator for the Service's Wage and Investment Division, and Jim Hasson as the Division Coordinator for the nonemployee plans portion of the Service's Tax Exempt/Government Entities Division. Herb further stated that Elaine Church would continue as the Coordinator for the employee plans portion of the latter Division. Herb also reported that Bill Paul will become the chair of the Tax Shelters Task Force (formerly the Corporate

Tax Shelters Task Force), Steve Shay and Len Schneidman will co-chair the new Task Force on Corporate Off-shore Inversions and International Tax Reform, and Terri Hyde will replace Helen Hubbard as a co-chair of the Simplification Task Force.

## PRO BONO OUTREACH

Dick Lipton, last-retiring Chair of the Section, delivered a written report to Council summarizing his proposals for implementing the Section's pro bono objectives previously approved by Council. The Report suggested that the Section serve as a catalyst for pro-bono activities by providing a forum for dissemination of information regarding pro bono opportunities. Among the Report's suggestions were: (1) initiating a regular pro bono column in the Section *NewsQuarterly* providing information regarding pro bono opportunities (see page 27 in this issue), (2) forming a new pro bono committee by soliciting members at the October meeting and holding the committee's first meeting on Saturday morning at the San Antonio meeting, (3) gathering and disseminating information to members regarding low-income taxpayer clinics ("LITC") and seeking interested lawyers to facilitate LITC mentoring, (4) providing volunteer income tax assistance ("VITA") training at an upcoming meeting of the Tax Section, and (5) gathering and disseminating information regarding exempt organizations seeking legal assistance. After presentation of the Report, Herb Beller stated that the Report's suggestions were achievable by the Section. After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to support the steps outlined in the Report.

## SECTION TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY EXTENDED TO NONACADEMICS

Stanley Blend, Vice-Chair Administration, reported that the Section had received several requests for travel reimbursement by nonacademic employees of nonprofit organizations who attend Section meetings. At present, Section travel reimbursement is limited to members of the Section who are academics. After discussion, Council approved by majority vote the extension of the same travel reimbursement policy currently applicable to academic employees of nonprofit organizations to nonacademic employees of nonprofit organizations who are members of the Tax Section.

## COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE TO FILL VACANCY OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY

On September 10, 2002, Council met by teleconference at 5:00 p.m. EDT for the purpose of filling the vacancy in the office of Assistant Secretary. Herb Beller announced that Helen Hubbard, the current Assistant Secretary, whose term expires July 2003, had recently resigned her office to become the Tax Legislative Counsel for the Department of Treasury. Pursuant to Section 4.7 of the By-laws, Council is permitted to fill certain officer vacancies created by resignation. Council then considered a list of potential candidates and, after discussion, elected by e-mail ballot Shannon Nash to fill the position of Assistant Secretary for the term ending July 2003. ■